

Mohave County Miner.

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Million Dollar Suit Begun by a Globe Miner.

A Globe miner who up to a few weeks ago was working in a local mine for 3.50¢ a day, is the hero of this story. His name is Joe Wilson, a native of Utah, about 43 years of age and a soldier of fortune. The story reads like a romance and it is one, although it is of real life, without a bit of exaggeration or a grain of fiction. Wilson is a plaintiff in a suit in the federal court of Salt Lake City, Utah, in which the defendant is the Colorado Mining company, and the stake is in round numbers, a million dollars. That his claim is a good one is evidenced by the fact that prior to beginning suit against the company, Senator Dorsey, of "Star route" fame, offered Wilson 120,000¢ as a compromise and one of the biggest law firms in the west, have agreed to take Wilson's case on a contingent fee.

In 1898 Joe Wilson located the Eureka group of claims in the Tintic district, the principal mineral section of Utah. With Senator Dorsey as one of the three incorporators and Wilson as another, the Colorado Mining company was organized to develop the claims. At the time of incorporation Wilson was given 15,000 of the 248,336 shares, which formed his part of the stock of the company. Work was started on the group, which contained excellent silver-lead surface showings, but before it had progressed far, Wilson became involved in domestic troubles and decided to shake the dust of Utah from his feet.

At about that time, the great Klondike gold boom was commenced and Wilson decided to quit the country for Alaska and with thousands of others who had become infected with the gold mania, he went to Seattle and sailed for the north. Before leaving he sold the 15,000 shares of stock of the Colorado Mining company for 50¢, which amount would pay his expenses to the new gold fields, and he left with the determination to never again set eyes on the state of Utah.

Eight years was spent by Wilson in the frozen north and during the entire period he never communicated with friends or relatives. Last year Wilson decided that he had had enough of Alaska, where fortune had not been overkind to him, and he came back to the states, but he only remained long enough to equip himself for a trip into Mexico. He did not stay long in the land of Montezuma and last spring he came to Globe, where he sought employment as a miner. For a time he was employed at the Black Warrior and he made frequent visits to Globe. During one of his visits to the city last summer, Wilson by chance happened to read in a mining journal an item that made him "sit up and take notice." It was to the effect that the Colorado Mining company had been paying dividends amounting to 120,000¢ monthly. It did not seem possible to Wilson that it was the same Colorado Mining company of which he was an incorporator, still there could hardly be any doubt of it, as its mines were evidently the same which he had almost ten years ago located.

Wilson immediately got into communication with former friends in Salt Lake City and was soon informed that the company was the same which he had helped to organize and that it was the second largest dividend payer in Utah.

It seems that Wilson's relatives were not the only ones who thought him dead. Senator Dorsey and others connected with the company, after trying in vain to locate Wilson had apparently come to the same conclusion, although there is nothing of record to show that they had attempted to look up Wilson's relatives and turn over to them his share of the company's stock. On the contrary the stock was sold to, according to the best information, to one Jesse Knight, a prominent mine operator of Utah.

The first week in November Wilson left for Salt Lake City and the latest chapter, which is in reality the first in his fight for a million, is contained in the following paragraph that appears in the Engineering & Mining

Journal of December 7:

"Salt Lake City November 30.—The Colorado Mining company, with properties in the Tintic district, has been made defendant in a suit filed in the federal court, which involves the adjudication of a claim involving upward of 1,000,000¢. The plaintiff is Joseph Wilson, one of the incorporators of the original Colorado Mining company in 1898, who claims that none of his holdings were issued him, except 15,000 shares and now he sues for the balance, which the company has refused to issue. The plaintiff wants 233,336 shares which the complaint alleges is worth 3¢ a share or 700,008¢. For a time the company paid dividends to the amount of 120,000¢ and is now disbursing them at the rate of 60,000¢ monthly."—Silver Belt.

Independent Smelter Probable.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 30.—"It is unnecessary to explain to any one that read what is happening to the metals, and particularly lead and silver," said President David Keith of the Silver King Coalition company a few days ago, "and it is therefore unnecessary for me to say that what ore is being marketed by our company is being sold at a great sacrifice. I should dislike to see the mines close down and I cannot say yet that they will; neither can I say that they won't. This is the statement made by Mr. Keith after a trip to New York, where with General Manager Thomas Kearns, he has been on business connected with the great mining enterprises with which both are prominently identified.

"There is undoubtedly a large accumulation of lead," continued Mr. Keith, "that must be worked off before we can look for much improvement, if any, in the price of that metal. I believe, however, that within a few months we shall see the price of both silver and lead return to somewhere near their normal positions. In the meantime it is a question of whether we can afford to take the great losses that present prices entail."

Asked what the prospects were for the building of the proposed big smelter by the 10,000,000¢ Miners' Smelting company, the corporation organized by F. A. Heinze and others several months ago, Mr. Keith expressed the conviction that it would be built as planned. He said that Mr. Heinze was working hard and everything, he thought, would work out all right in the near future.

"And whether Mr. Heinze's undertaking materializes as planned or not," said Mr. Keith, "it is my judgment that an independent smelter will be built, anyhow."

There is particular significance in each of these statements by Mr. Keith. His company is the biggest producer of lead-silver ore in the state of Utah and the corporation owning the mines is one of the most powerful. While Mr. Keith did not pretend to discuss anything in detail, no other conclusion can be drawn from his statement than that the Silver King company, with other powerful interests in the mining field of this state, are getting their heads together and figuring out a plan to save to themselves at least a portion of the legitimate profit of mining. That Mr. Heinze is with them, or that they are with Mr. Heinze, looks certain. And it seems just as certain that if better prices for the metals do not quickly prevail there will be a cessation of shipments until such time as the change does come.

Labor Leaders Jailed for Contempt of Court.

Helena, Mont., Jan. 3.—Judge Wm. F. Hunt, of the federal court today gave a verdict of guilty against three of the four Butte labor leaders on the charge of contempt of court in violating an injunction of the court restraining them from interference with the operations of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company. Joseph Shannon received a sentence of ninety days in the county jail; William Cutts was sentenced to ninety days and a fine of 250¢; A. E. Edwards was given ninety days and 100¢ fine; R. C. Scott, the fourth defendant, was discharged.

During yesterday the defense continued its testimony to prove an alibi for the accused men. Among those who occupied the stand were Shannon and Cutts, who testified in their own behalf.

In rendering his decision the judge said "God gave man his hands and back, and the right to use them as he pleases. It is an inalienable right that no power can take it away from man; no power can compel him to work and no power can compel him to stop working if he desires to work. When man, or any set of men take it upon themselves to say that they are law and defy the process of the courts, to defy police authority; to upset the theory of established government; to upset the very base of society in which we all live, there is a power which will come to the rescue of the man who is wronged in that way, and that power is that which protects you, protects me and must continue to afford us all protection, else the government is destroyed."

Shannon was a member of the first legislature and is now president of the Montana branch of the Western Federation of miners. Cutts is business agent for the carpenters' union.

Guaranteeing Depositors.

Bankers of the Middle West are talking of little else just now than the plan adopted by Oklahoma for guaranteeing bank deposits, says the New York Post's Kansas City, Mo., correspondent. The new law, which is to take effect Feb. 15, is the first of this sort, and its operation is certain to be watched with great interest. The effect on the surrounding states is likewise of importance to the banks, and this furnishes a fruitful topic of discussion.

The Oklahoma law provides that every state bank shall pay to the state banking board 1 per cent of its deposits to constitute a fund for the protection of the banks. When a bank fails, the bank commissioner is to step in and forthwith pay off the depositors, taking over the assets, the state becoming a preferred creditor. If the bank can pay out through the usual form of receivership the fund will be replenished; if not, the fund stands the loss. Should the fund not be large enough, it may be increased through assessment.

It is expected that the national banks will be allowed by the comptroller to come under the same law through their voluntary contribution of 1 per cent of daily deposits a bill to that effect being introduced into Congress. Of course, should it not be allowed, the national banks would have to take out state charters, as they would not be able to retain their deposits.

The plan has been received with commendation by the people, if not entirely so by the bankers. The people of Oklahoma have had a great deal of money deposited in the banks of Wichita and other southern Kansas towns, growing out of the unsettled condition of banking in the territory days. Many have given notice that they will withdraw their accounts when the new law takes effect, and this has caused much perturbation among the Kansas bankers. They are calling on the governor to convene a special session of the legislature to enact a similar law for the Kansas banks, of which there are over 900, with deposits of 150,000,000¢.

The indications are, that this will be done and that a similar law will take effect in Kansas at the same date as that of the Oklahoma law.

Then it follows that the Kansas banks, which makes the Kansas City, Mo., a reserve centre, will be tempted to withdraw their accounts and transfer them to the banks of their own state over the line in Kansas City, Kansas, which are already making strong bids for the deposits. So it is possible that Missouri will have to take the same step and the movement may spread throughout the West as a matter of protection of each state against the rivalry of its neighbor.

It is held by the advocates of the plan that it will bring back to the

banks the millions that have been withdrawn, and that it will create a stability heretofore unknown among the bankers of the new states. Many bankers who were unfriendly to the plan when it was introduced into the Western legislature two years ago, have been converted by the experience of the past few weeks and are now its earnest advocates. At any rate, it is the most important feature of the Western financial situation at this time.

The Washoe Smelter Closed.

An event which has been anticipated for some time occurred when the Washoe smelter closed last Saturday. This plant, which is the largest copper smelter in the world, is owned by the Washoe company and operated under lease by the Anaconda Mining Company, to whom the closing means an immense loss. The present condition was forced upon them, however, by the copper situation, and, during the last two months, the works have been run at a great financial loss. The closing of this plant will throw out of employment some 3,000 men, and paralyze the business in Anaconda.

The policy of the company is liberal in the extreme, and it will continue the salaries of the heads of departments during the shut-down. Many of the employees have received pay for the full month of December, and the married men among the smelter laborers will be allowed credit at the company's stores in Anaconda until work is resumed.

The Anaconda Mining Company, owing to its contract with the Helena Power and Transmission Company for power, and its coal agreements, will suffer heavily, prohibiting the possibilities of any dividends for some time to come. The duration of the shut-down is a matter of conjecture, even among the officials themselves, and will depend upon the conditions governing the price of copper. The Great

Falls smelter, belonging to the same company, is running at about one-half its normal capacity and may be further reduced. In view of the policy being carried out by the Calumet and Hecla company of Michigan, the outlook for an early re-opening of the smelter is unfavorable.

Montana will not soon recover from the closing of her mines and smelters and the conditions are not to be regretted. Within the last few months over 15,000 men have been thrown out of employment in the Butte and Anaconda district alone, most of whom are leaving the state.—Denver Mines and Mining.

Giroux in Trouble.

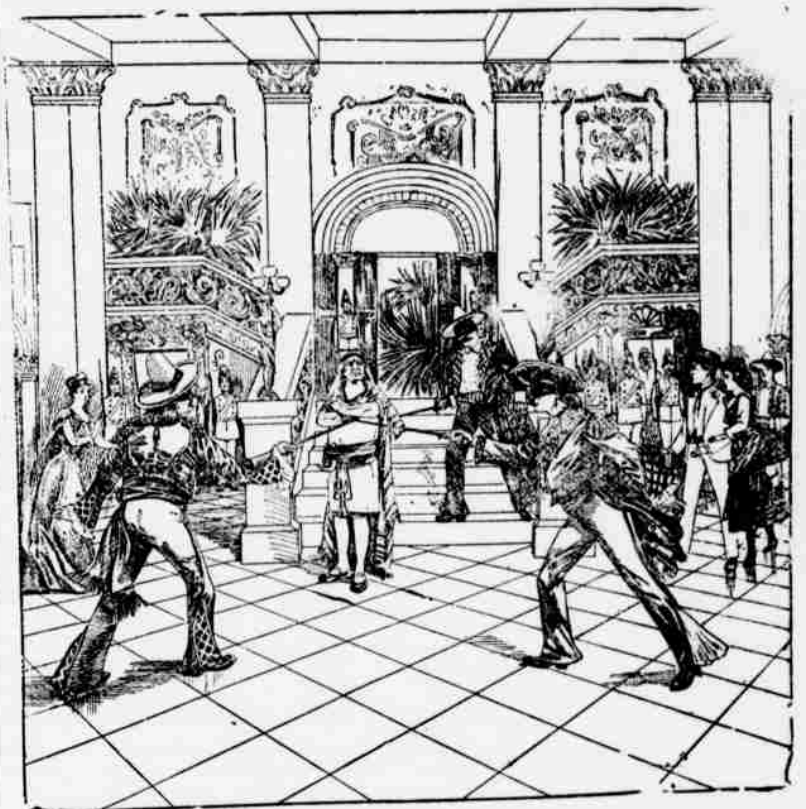
A dispatch from Ely, Nevada, says: The cave-in at the Alpha shaft of the Giroux Consolidated Copper Co. property promises to put that company out of commission for some time. Retimbering of the 1100-foot shaft from top to bottom, and doubtless the making of a new compartment will be necessary.

In the meantime, the ground continues moving and the clearing of the shaft of the 400 or more feet of soft material which has filled it up is proceeding with difficulty and danger. This shaft was timbered with 6x6 in. material. All the other mines of the district have used 12x12 in., and had the Giroux used heavier timbers the present trouble would never have happened.

Carrie Nation

certainly smashed a hole in the barrooms of Kansas, but Ballard's Horehound Syrup has smashed all records as a cure for coughs, Bronchitis, Influenza and all Pulmonary diseases. T. C. H—, Horton, Kansas, writes: "I have never found a medicine that would cure a cough so quickly as Ballard's Horehound Syrup. I have used it for years." Sold by Watkins Drug-store.

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